The extent and increase of London during the reign of Queen Elizabeth caused the greatest alarm to the Government; yet in comparison with the present extent and progress of London, how idle, at a first glance, seems the fear: still when we consider the sanitary condition of London at that time, and the imperfect state of the roads throughout England, we cannot wonder at the dread, particularly as plague and famine were frequent visitors to Queen Elizabeth's London citizens. In Agas's Map of London there are only a few houses shown outside the City wall from St. Botolph's, near the Tower, to Bishopsgate: the Spital-fields are without a house, and the space which is at present occupied by a dense population of silk weavers, &c. is studded on the map with archers practising their games, and cows and milkmaids. The continuation of Bishopsgate-street is shown with a single line of houses on each side, stretching as far as Houndsditch. From Bishopsgate to Moor-gate there are only one or two detached houses outside the wall: one of them is called the "Dogge House:" here in the green fields are numerous persons bleaching linen, &c. The Finsbury-fields are shown with footpaths across, the only buildings upon them being four windmills. The space between Broad-street and Coleman-street is occupied by large gardens. Outside Cripplegate, Grub-street, now Milton-street, and one or two other small streets are shown: except these buildings, all is fields and gardens. Aldersgate-street, from the corner of Barbican runs but a short distance. The Charter House abuts upon the fields. The "Schmyt Fyeld" is planted with two rows of trees: the sites occupied by the houses 22 and 25 are marked as built upon: Cock-lane, Hozier-lane, and Coney-lane are short rows of houses leading to the fields. Cow-cross and a portion of St. John's-street, Clerkenwell, and a few houses at Holborn-bridge, end London in that direction. Field-lane is planted with trees, the Fleet running at their side. Ely-gardens, mentioned by Shakespear, as famous for the growth of its strawberries, are shown of great extent. Holborn has a single row of houses on each side, with fields on the north, and gardens and plantations on the south. Gray's-inn-lane is the only branch to the north in the whole extent of Holborn, and the house, No. 18, which is still near Liquorpond-street, is probably that shown in the map as the end of London in this part. Holborn continues until about as far as Red Lion-street, and then becomes a country road, with hedges on each side, and so continues to the little village of St. Giles, which is in the midst of fields. No houses appear nearer than the Strand on the south. St. Martin's-lane and the Haymarket are green lanes, through which the Oxford-road and the "Waye to Redinge" pass.

What changes have taken place since that day! what wonderful extension! and still London in 1852 is not only better supplied with provisions than in the time of Elizabeth, but also vastly improved, notwithstanding our numerous abuses, in sanitary condition.

In addition to the sweating sickness, the plague, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, visited London several times: in 1563, 20,372 persons died; in 1569, a very large number. About this time the City laid out 914*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* in cleansing the City ditch, between Aldgate and the Postern on Tower-hill, and making a new sewer and wharf of timber from the head of the Postern into the Tower-ditch, which before this time had always laid open. In 1590, nearly 11,000 persons died; and in 1603, the year in which Elizabeth died, the plague carried off 30,578 persons, 3,090 of whom died in one week.

In 1579 the alarm to which we have alluded respecting the increase of London, was so great that an inquisition was ordered to be taken of the number of foreigners in London, when it appeared that the number had increased threefold in twelve years. In 1567, the number of strangers in London was, Scots, 40; French, 428; Spaniards and Portugese, 45; Italians, 140; Dutch, 2,030; Burgundians, 44; Danes, 2; Liegois, 1; in all, 2,730: in 1579, the number was 8,190. This increase produced a remonstrance from the Lord Mayor and aldermen against the number of new buildings and inhabitants within the city and suburbs of London. In consequence of which her Majesty issued a proclamation, forbidding any new buildings of a house or tenement within three miles from the gate of the City, where no former house could be remembered to have stood, and likewise not to suffer more than one family to inhabit any house. The Lord Mayor was empowered to commit offenders against this proclamation, or to hold them to bail.

In 1564, the common council of London ordered that all such citizens as should thenceforth be constrained to sell their household goods, leases of houses, or such like, should first cause the same to be cried through the City by a man with a bell, and then to be sold by the common outcrier appointed for that purpose, and he to receive one farthing in the pound for his trouble.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, several improvements were introduced amongst them. A description of police was established composed of beadles, &c. of the various wards, to preserve order amongst vagrants, &c.

In 1556, Christopher Draper, alderman of Cordwainer-street Ward, appointed a man to go about his ward at night with a bell, and at certain places, with an audible voice, to bid the citizens be careful of their fires and lights, to help the poor, and pray for the dead. This institution was soon after adopted in all other parts of the City.

In the year 1566, a proposition was made by Sir Thomas Gresham, merchant, of London, to erect, at his own expense, a commodious building for merchants to meet and transact business, provided they would find a convenient site for the same. The citizens, agreeing to this proposal, purchased, for the sum of 3,532*l.* eighty houses in the two alleys called New St. Christopher's and Swan Alley, leading out of Cornhill into Threadneedle-street, the materials of which eighty houses were sold for 478*l.* and the ground, being cleared, was conveyed to Sir Thomas Gresham, who, on the 7th of June, accompanied by several aldermen, laid the first brick of the new building: each alderman also laid a brick, and a piece of gold for the workmen, who persevered with such assiduity that the building was roofed by the month of November in the next year, and was soon after finished under the title of the Burse (14). On 23rd Jan. 1570, Queen Elizabeth, attended by the nobility, went into the City and dined with Sir Thomas Gresham at his house in Bishopsgate-street. After dinner her Majesty returned through Cornhill, went into the Burse, and after viewing it in all parts, commanded proclamation to be made by a herald, with sound of trumpet, that thenceforth it should go by the appellation of the Royal Exchange.

Sir Thomas Gresham, by will dated 26th November, 1579, devised the Royal Exchange, its profits, &c. to the Mayor and citizens of London and the Company of Mercers, to be equally enjoyed amongst them, on condition that the citizens, out of their moiety, should pay a salary of 50*l.* per annum each to four persons, who should read lectures in divinity, astronomy, music, and geometry, in Gresham College, and to pay 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum each to eight almspeople situate behind the said college, in Broad-street, and 10*l.* yearly to each of the prisons of Newgate, Ludgate, King's Bench, Marshalsea, and Wood-street Compter;—that the Mercers, out of their moiety, should pay 50*l.* each per annum to three persons to read lectures in law, physic, and rhetoric, in his Mansion-house, and 100*l.* for four quarterly dinners to be provided in their hall for the entertainment of the whole company, and also to pay 10*l.* per annum to the following places, viz. the Poultry Compter, Christ's Hospital, St. Bartholomew's, the Spital, Bethlehem, and St. Thomas's.

In 1576, Mr. William Lamb, citizen and clothworker, erected a conduit on Snow-hill, which he fed from a water source near the Foundling Hospital: part of the covering of this well is still remaining in a garden near the "Lamb," Lamb's Conduit-street. An effigy of this public benefactor will be found in the chapel attached to an hospital endowed by him, at the north end of Monkwell-street, Cripplegate.

In 1582 Peter Maurice, a German engineer, proposed a scheme to the Lord Mayor and aldermen for erecting a machine to supply the City with Thames water, which scheme being approved of, the same was erected in the river, near London-bridge. As an encouragement for this piece of ingenuity, Maurice obtained a lease of one arch, and a place for fixing his engine upon the north end of London-bridge, for the term of 500 years, at the rent of 10*s.* per annum. Two years after this he obtained the lease of a second arch, and the citizens finding the advantage of this invention, he and his posterity grew wealthy by its improvement. In 1701 they sold the property to Richard Soams, a goldsmith, for 30,000*l.* Maurice having first obtained another lease of the fourth arch. Soams got from the City a confirmation of Maurice's lease at the yearly rent of 20*s.* and 300*l.* fine, after which Soams divided the whole property in 300 shares, at 500*l.* each, and made it a company.

Having extended this notice as far as our space will permit, we will give, in our next, illustrations of the shops and houses in London at the time of the reign of James I. and glance briefly at the history of the domestic architecture of that period.

REFERENCES TO THE ENGRAVINGS.

13. Old Houses near the south end of London-bridge, from a view of London published at Amsterdam, 1616.
14. Front of the first Royal Exchange, built by Gresham, 1566-67. (Wilkinson's *London Illustrated.*)
15. The Custom-house, from a print in Wilkinson's *London Illustrated*, copied from a scarce engraving of the date of 1634.
16. Nonesuch House, formerly on London-bridge: from Agas's Map.
*17. Bracket, with date 1595, on house in Gray's-inn-lane.
*18. Elizabethan House, east side of Gray's-inn-lane.
19. House and Shop, West Cheap, as it appeared in 1585, engraved in Wilkinson, from a drawing by R. Triswell.
20. House formerly in Grub-street (now Milton-street). (Smith's Antiquities.)
*21. Bracket on house in Milton-street.
*22. Houses in Long-lane, Smithfield.
*23. Part of House in Carey-street, Chancery-lane.
*24. Old House, St. Clement's-lane, Strand.
*25. House in Long-lane, Smithfield.

The engravings marked * are drawn from existing examples.

PARSEY'S COMPRESSED AIR LOCOMOTIVE.

AFTER a long absence Mr. Parsey has again appeared: having built an experimental compressed air engine, permission was given to try it on the Eastern Counties Railway on the 25th May last, when the locomotive, with eight persons on it, travelled (as we are informed) from Stratford Station to Lea Bridge and back, a distance of four miles. The engine weighs about 1½ ton, pistons 9 in. stroke, 2¼ diameter, capacity of the reservoirs of highly compressed air, about 39 feet, which were charged to 11 atmospheres, or 165 lbs. per square inch. The regulator was set to give an uniform pressure on the piston of about 20 lbs. per inch. The object of this part of the engine is to keep a self-acting uniform working pressure. The gradual decline of pressure has hitherto been the failing point of all attempts to make use of compressed air as a motive power. We are told that less than 40 cubic feet at a density of 11 atmospheres drove the engine and eight persons four miles—about 2 tons, from which data some idea of the cost of power may be ascertained. This is the first time a compressed air engine has run upon a railway.

THE IRON TRADE.—Prices, it is reported, are looking up, and orders are on the increase. Some charcoal iron has been imported from Nova Scotia, and it is thought that this iron, which is well adapted for steel of the best quality, and which obtained a medal at the Great Exhibition, may ultimately compete with that from Sweden and Russia.

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